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RIO GRANDE INDIAN FISH TRAPS

Fish traps are made according to a widespread fashion. Two converging walls of brush that point downstream are built. At the center is an opening where a log is placed to form a waterfall. Below this waterfall is a willow mat which is carefully screened in from the side. The fish are swept out towards the end of this mat, which is above water, and are unable to go back over the little waterfall.

Large fish-nets are made by communal labor out of the fiber of Indian hemp and the wide-leaved yucca. Each man makes his piece of net and brings it to a meeting. There the different pieces are patched together to form a large seine. The mesh is made even by the use of a flat stick over which the tying is done. Stones are used for sinkers and gourds for floaters.

The throwing of the net is a communal enterprise and the whole village profits by it. The governor of the pueblo has charge, and before the event comes off either he or the war captain goes to the river bank and throws in an offering of cornmeal to placate the river spirit. After the fish have been eaten, many Indians throw the bones back to the river, believing they will again become fish. Others throw the vertebræ on ant hills so the ants will clean them nicely and they can be used as beads.

H. J. SPINDEN,

New York, N. Y.

EGG-LAYING OF THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE.

At Cape Lookout, in North Carolina, on July 27, 1913, at about midnight, my captain, with one of the other members of my crew, noticed the fresh tracks of a turtle, and upon following them for a short distance, came upon a very large loggerhead

turtle laying her eggs. His description, which I know to be reliable, follows:

He states that the turtle had almost buried herself in the sand; that the laying of each egg, at intervals of ten to fifteen seconds, was accompanied by a convulsive movement; that she appeared not to notice their presence while laying, although he struck her. He received 25 or 30 of the eggs in his hand as they were laid. After she had finished laying she filled the hole, and, with her flippers, smoothed the sand over, then showed a disposition to defend her nest by remaining near it, but they handled her roughly and she started for the sea, more than 100 yards distant. The nest was opened and the balance of the eggs secured. The entire number laid was only 87, which is the smallest number I have ever known to be laid by a logger-head turtle. In my experience they usually lay about 150.

R. J. COLES,

Danville, Va.

PADDLEFISH FOUND IN MUD.

During the construction of a dam across the Nolichucky River near Greeneville, Tenn., an area of the river bottom was exposed to view by means of a cofferdam on November 9th, 1913.

All the water was pumped out, and during the pumping process no fish were observed in the water.

The rock bed of the river was covered by two feet of clean sand, and over this was three or four inches of fine silt. In this silt were found half a dozen living fish called by the natives Shovel-nosed Catfish, identified at the American Museum of Natural History as Paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula*. These fish ranged from 2 to 2½ feet in length, the head and paddle being about half the length of the fish.

WARREN TRAVELL,

New York, N. Y.